Harry to Snap Bullwhip To Oregon

B.C.'s '58 centennial pageant is being echoed in Oregon celebrations this year.

And when an Oregon centennial wagon train rolls out of Independence, Mo., on April 19 on a 2,000-mile journey to the beaver state, former president Harry S. Truman expects to be on hand to see that the caravan of prairie schooners gets a proper sendoff.

Senator Richard Neuberger and Congressman Charles Porter of Oregon made public in Washington Wednesday a letter from Mr. Truman in which he stated that, although he lacks experience as a "bullwhip cracker," he will do all he can to help start the wagon train on its journey.

On behalf of Oregon centennial officials, Sen. Neuberger and Congressman Porter had requested Mr. Truman to act as honorary trail master for the wagon train.

"I am very much interested in that program," Mr. Truman replied. "I sincerely hope it will be possible for me to be present and help with the celebration.

"I doubt very much if I would be a good trail master," he continued. "I was informed by my grandfather that a trail master must be able to pop a 20-foot bull whip and kill a fly without hurting the animal. I have never had any practice along that line and I don't know whether I could do it."

Stallion Donkey on French Scene

Old signs of France remain on the scene in the new republic. At Tarbes National Stud Farm, a champion stallion donkey is paraded for inspection by President Charles de Gaulle. Prize animals of the nation are kept at the farm.

Swarming Schools Accurate Picture

The Capital Region Planning Board sees a Saanich peninsula practically swarming with school-age children by 1976—and that's undoubtedly an accurate picture, area school board officials agreed yesterday.

"We work closely with the planning board and their forecasts have always proven accurate," said Kenneth Leeming, a trustee of the Greater Victoria school district.

The planners' report forecast a 1976 enrolment of 35,500, an increase of 14,600 over 1956, and said senior high schools will have 110 per cent more pupils and elementary schools 60 per cent more. More than 500 new classrooms and 200 acres of additional school sites will be required.

"Of course, we can't look that many years ahead," said Mr. Leeming, "because provincial government financing is only for three years."

He said that in 1957, the planning board told the school district of the requirements for 1960, but the government disagreed and said it had to be cut down.

"Sometimes, the education department tries to cut us down too much," he said.

"The government should take this report to heart," said Mr. Leeming. "They can bank on its accuracy.

"However, we are trying to prepare for the growth by picking up school sites—one or two a year — whenever or wherever we can, especially near new subdivisions," he said.

★ ★ ★

Planners 'Always Right'

★ ★ ★

Greater Victoria schools superintendent John Gough said the report seems "reasonable and realistic.

"It's in line with the recent Gordon Commission report which estimated, like the board, a 200,000 population.

"The planning board recently advised us," he said, "that 10 new school sites will be needed in the near future in the northern part of the school district."

Mr. Gough added that the planning board population figures raise one big, unanswerable question:

"How are the people going to earn their living? But, of course, no one is sure of the economic potential of the lower Island."

James D. Helps, chairman of Saanich school district, said "the planning board estimates have always greatly aided us.

"A recent five-year report which they made for us was accurate and this latest one will undoubtedly be accurate, too."

He said the Saanich district is doing its best, "within our limitations," to look ahead and keep up with the fast-expanding school population.

Bids Asked to Raise Sunken U.S. Tug

Tenders have been invited for raising the sunken American tug Henry Foss, which foundered off Beaver Point on Salt Spring Island Feb. 13.

Six of the seven men in the crew drowned.

Owners, Foss Launch and Tug Co. of Tacoma, Seattle and Port Angeles have invited bids to be submitted by mail.

Island Tug and Barge Co. of Victoria has tendered on the job.

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Reaction Mixed to Region Plan

Praise, Criticism in Saanich

Saanich councillors and residents last night varied widely in their opinions of the Capital Region Planning Board's master plan for the future development of Greater Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula.

Comment ranged from Coun. Charles Nelles' enthusiastic, "So far as I am concerned, it is the New Testament," to a warning from A. J. Shakespeare, president of the Prospect Lake and District Community Association, that the association will keep an eagle eye on Saanich council's reaction when it discusses the plan tomorrow night.

PROMISES MORE

"It promises more to Victoria than anything I have seen," Coun. Nelles said. "It puts down on paper what we have been fumbling after for a number of years.

"I know it is going to upset a number of plans, private interests, but the fact remains that the thing is going to turn Victoria into the most unusually attractive place to live. To me that is of paramount importance.

"I am thinking more of our children. When I drive through downtown Victoria I wonder how people could have allowed this to happen. I am very happy for our children's sakes that this thing has come so early in the life of our city."

Coun. Nelles admitted he could see there would be opposition to the plan but felt that the opposition would just make the fight to have it adopted more worth while.

Mr. Shakespeare promised Saanich council strong opposition if the plan was unfavorable to the rural area of the municipality.

"At all times, if we are not going to get value for our tax dollar we will certainly be ready with a big needle," he said.

COUNCIL IN CHAOS

"Saanich council is in chaos at the present time, changing its mind from day to day. Some of our members will be at Monday night's council meeting to report back to our meeting the same night."

Coun. Harold Todd criticized the possibility that councils might have to give up their local autonomy on zoning and rezoning property.

"Once we adopt it we can't change zoning where it might be a good idea to rezone without permission, presumably, from the other municipalities," he said.

GIVING UP POWER

"Somehow I just don't like giving up the public power to rezone an area when it seems feasible. I feel that if this is as it seems to be I would certainly have to think a lot about that before I voted on the question."

Coun. Ainslie Worthington criticized the proposal to build a civic centre and provincial courthouse on the Cathedral Hill site.

"This should be reserved exclusively for high revenue property, such as apartments and hotels, which can take advantage of the wonderful view — not erect a concrete curtain for the benefit of a relatively few city and provincial employees," he said.

SCENERY RICHES

"The civic centre could easily be built farther out from the centre of town as Vancouver has done. Victoria's riches lie in the wonderful scenery and shouldn't be wasted."

Coun. Worthington praised the proposals dealing with road constructions and said they should be carried out first, mapping out the future of the area.

"It's a pity the city didn't wait until the plan was completed before going ahead with the construction of its garbage collection depot at the foot of Johnson Street," he added.

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Women's Day Rush Jams Red Stores

MOSCOW (AP)—Muscovites jammed stores Saturday buying gifts for wives, mothers and sweethearts. Today is international women's day. Candy, perfume, flowers and women's wear stores did a booming business.

Corporation Lawyer's Gift

Convicts Get Shares In Hawaiian Firm

NICE, France (AP) — Lee P. Warren, 71, a retired corporation attorney, said Saturday a man who loses his liberty is "one of the most unfortunate beings on earth."

That is why, he added in an interview in his plush Riviera apartment, he authorized gifts of shares of stock to eight convicts in Hawaii.

His gift came to light in Honolulu when warden Joe Harper of Oahu prison said he had a letter from Warren asking him to select recipients of stock in the Hawaiian Dredging and Construction Company on the basis of good conduct. Warren is a former attorney for the company.

Harper picked armed robbery and burglary convicts who had served at least five years each and who had contributed to prison society.

The warden said each of the men would receive stock valued at $5,000 and paying $250 in annual dividends.

Simester Rites Set

A former resident of Victoria, John Edwin Simester, 87, who died Friday in Bellingham., will be buried here Wednesday.

He was born in London June 12, 1871, and came to Canada in 1909. For a number of years before his death, he lived in Bellingham.

Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Tuesday at Jones' funeral home in Bellingham and a graveside ceremony will take place Wednesday at Royal Oak cemetery in Victoria.

Federal Penitentiary Slated for Springhill

OTTAWA (UPI) — The government has decided to build a federal penitentiary in Springhill, N.S., the coal-mining town economically decimated last fall by its second mine tragedy in two years, Justice Minister Fulton announced in the Commons.

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We're Confident, Too, Says Toone

Let Labor Help Plan District

A. W. Toone, secretary-treasurer of Victoria Labor Council, said the expansion program needs the wholehearted support of working people.

He said VLC represents the working man and woman, "and we would like to know more details of the plans for industrial expansion so that organized labor can work hand in hand with the planners."

Confidence shown by planners in future industrial growth of South Vancouver Island, "goes right along with the thinking of Victoria Labor Council," said Mr. Toone.

Community Group Returns Interest

Interest cheques have been mailed to 175 persons who last year loaned a total of nearly $11,000 to Sidney and North Saanich Community Hall Association for building of the SANSCHA at Sidney.

Master Plan Fine Say District Leaders

Continued from Page 1

for acquiring park land and developing roads.

If park land was not acquired soon, he said, it might cost 100 times as much later.

Reeve Murdoch described the plan as a "very worthwhile work, a magnificent job," but objected to adopting it on the same grounds as Mayor Scurrah.

"We coud accept it as a guide, but not commit ourselves to be bound by it," he said.

Reeve A. C. Wurtele of Esquimalt sided with Reeve Chatterton.

The board, he said, "isn't going to interfere unless a municipality wants to make a major change in the plan."

SEE NO FLAWS

He said he could see no flaws in the plan and thought it was a great instrument for Greater Victoria co-operation.

Plan will be discussed at a public meeting sponsored by the local branch of the Community Planning Association of Canada at the Art Gallery at 8 p.m. Monday and copies will be available.

Royal Oak Land Bought for School

Saanich school district is to acquire a 10-acre property on Wesley Road, Royal Oak, as a school site to serve the area west of Cordova Bay and in the vicinity of Elk Lake-Beaver Lake district.

Trustees last week agreed to pay $18,000 for the property, after an earlier offer of $15,000 had been rejected by the owner.

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